

At the Fifth Session of the General Assembly these two questions, a general agreement and settlement of the refugee problem, were linked in the resolution finally adopted. A Soviet proposal to dissolve the Conciliation Commission was defeated. Canada supported at the outset the suggestion of the United Kingdom, the United States, France and Turkey that the parties should be urged to engage without delay in "direct discussions" of a general settlement, either under the auspices of the Conciliation Commission or independently. A Chinese amendment was ultimately accepted, however, by virtue of which those concerned would be given a choice between direct negotiations, as Israel wished, and negotiations conducted "with the Conciliation Commission", which would enable the Arabs to work with the Commission, as they preferred, until the principles of a settlement had been agreed, after which they would be ready for discussions with representatives of Israel.

The remainder of the resolution was devoted to the refugee question. The Conciliation Commission had recommended that the Arab refugees should be made to realize that conditions in Israel had changed and that they should be assured that non-returning refugees would receive "just compensation" for the loss of their property. A solution of the problem, it thought, should be based partly on repatriation and partly on resettlement of refugees in Arab lands, the governments concerned providing the necessary facilities and the United Nations the technical and financial assistance required. The Assembly resolution adopted on December 14 by 48 votes (including that of Canada) to 5 (the Soviet bloc), with Israel, Iraq and two other states abstaining, provided that the Commission should set up an office to make arrangements for the assessment and payment of compensation to refugees for their property and to work out such arrangements as might be practicable to implement other objectives of the Assembly's 1948 resolution on repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees. The office is to continue conversations already begun regarding such matters as the release of blocked funds of Arab refugees in Israeli banks and measures to halt the deterioration of Arab property in Israel. Whether repatriated or resettled, refugees are not to be subjected to discrimination of any sort. This resolution was approved only after the consideration in committee of five separate proposals representing the views of Arabs and Israelis and of various delegations which tried to bridge the gulf between the two. A net budgetary appropriation of approximately \$700,000 was approved to cover the expenses of the Conciliation Commission and the special office in 1951.

The question of temporary assistance to refugees was considered separately on the basis of a report from General Howard Kennedy, a Canadian who was appointed Director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. On December 2, the Assembly adopted a draft resolution initiated by France, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States setting up two funds for the year 1951-52, both to be based on voluntary contributions. The first was a fund of \$20 million for direct relief, the second a "reintegration fund" of at least \$30 million to be used only for projects proposed by Near Eastern governments and